



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
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Meeting Minutes 02/22/2006

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE
 MINUTES OF MEETING
 7:30 PM O'NEILL ROOM, COMMUNITY SAFETY BUILDING
 2/22/06

ATTENDEES:

McGaffigan*	Fey	Dunn	O'Neill*	Mahoney*
DeCoursey	Connors	Simmons*	Bayer*	
Tosti*	Foskett	Deyst*	Ronan	
Ferrara*	Franclemont*	Jones*	Olsen*	
DuBois*	Howard*	Fanning*	Carman*	Kneeland*

* Indicates present

VISITORS: Town Counsel John Maher, Workmans Compensation Agent Ed Marlenga, Disability Commission Chair Barbara Cutler

MINUTES of 2/15/06 meeting were accepted as corrected. Unanimous.

BUD 17a COMMUNITY SAFETY ADMIN: PubSafe SubCom (O'Neill) recommended the budget as printed. VOTED \$339,459. Unanimous.

BUD 17a COMMUNITY SAFETY FIRE: PubSafe SubCom (Simmons) recommended the budget as printed. There is one less captain & one more firefighter, a change that has been accepted by the union. The single bay Park Circle station is expected to be within budget. The State recommends a second ambulance on duty. The department would like to increase manning for it. Alternatively an engine crew could "jumpover" to man the ambulance. Chief expects to fill positions this Spring which should reduce overtime spending. The department is studying replacing an engine w/ a quint so the Town can have a 2 ladder capability. VOTED \$4,927,298. Unanimous.

BUD 9 LEGAL: Maher provided a transfer request memo for \$50k. He explained the unexpected expenses. He also suggested a \$25k expense budget increase for FY07. In both cases a major increase is associated with the combined sewer overflow suit. There is doubt whether the Town can sue since no town-owned property is involved. VOTED to transfer \$25k to the legal expense budget from the reserve fund and to encumber \$25k. Unanimous. VOTED to increase the FY07 Legal Expense budget to \$100,000.

SYMMES: Maher confirmed the large expense the Town would suffer if the neighbor suits go forward. Deyst suggested selling the property & allowing a 40b development to go ahead. The Town would probably still have to carry as much as \$4m of the \$11.5m bond.

BUD 9 WORKMAN'S COMPENSATION: Marlenga provided a transfer request memo for \$120k. He expects to exhaust the WC reserve as well as the FY06 appropriation. Marlenga attributed the expense to 4 large claims and to aging of the work force. More than half the claims this year are from the School Dept. Marlenga noted that WC

pays 60% of a disabled retirement cost until the case is settled, usually within a year but sometimes never. The lack of a WC reserve is a serious risk. He suggested increasing the WC budget in FY07 by \$29k. Tosti asked the department to consider moving the WC appropriation to the insurance budget. VOTED to transfer \$60k from the reserve fund to workmans compensation and to encumber \$60k. Unanimous. VOTED to increase the FY07 WC appropriation to \$390k. Unanimous. VOTED \$821,695 for the Legal & WC department FY07 budget. Unanimous.

COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES ARTICLES: Cutler addressed the following articles but requested no appropriations.

DART 8 CURB SNOW REMOVAL: Cutler is concerned w/ the main streets. There is doubt whether the existing sidewalk shoveling bylaw includes clearing access to the crosswalks. She did not know how many curbs are involved nor how much it might cost to clear them. Members suggested that this is a matter that the TAC could consider.

DART 9 PLOWING BIKE PATH: Cutler said this would benefit disabled people in all parts of town. Members noted the original approval for the bike path assumed no cost for plowing.

DART 10 UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION ACCESS: Cutler would like to "encourage" handicapped access features in new construction & major renovations. This would include 36" wide doors & larger bathrooms.

DART11 SMOOTHER SIDEWALKS: Cutler would like the brick sidewalks to be replaced w/ concrete when they need repair.

VOTED no report on all 4 articles. Unanimous.

COMMITTEE: Next mtg Mon 2/27.

RESERVE FUND BALANCE: $\$248,590.66 - \$150,000 = \$78,590.66$ ($\$248,590.66 - \$75,000 = \$163,590.66$)

Peter B Howard Secretary 2/23/06

cc Selectmen, FinCom Members, Town Manager, Library File, Town Web Site FinCom Web Site